

## Message Text

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ORIGIN INT-08

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APPROVED BY ARA/CEN DAVID LAZAR

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

UNCLAS STATE 140820

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, EFIS, XX, CS

SUBJECT: REPORTED U.S. PROHIBITION AGAINST IMPORTING GREEN  
SEA TURTLE MEAT

REF: (A) SAN JOSE 02065 (B) SAN JOSE 02380

1. USG DOES NOT PRESENTLY BAN IMPORT OF GREEN SEA TURTLES, (CHELONIA MYDAS). THREE OTHER SPECIES OF SEA TURTLE, THE HAWKSBILL (ERETMOCHELYS IMBRICATA), THE ATLANTIC RIDLEY (LEPIDOCHELYS KEMPII), AND THE LEATHERBACK (DERMOCHELYS CAREACEA) HAVE BEEN DETERMINED TO BE ENDANGERED. THE IMPORTATION OR SALE OF THOSE THREE SPECIES, OR OF ANY PRODUCT DERIVED FROM THEM, IS PROHIBITED.

2. SOME STATES--INCLUDING NEW YORK AND CALIFORNIA--HAVE CLASSIFIED THE GREEN SEA TURTLE AS ENDANGERED AND RESTRICT SALE OF DERIVATIVES OF THIS SPECIES WITHIN THEIR STATE.

3. U.S. DEPT. OF INTERIOR DID PROPOSE ADDING THE GREEN SEA TURTLE TO THE U.S- LIST OF ENDANGERED FOREIGN WILD LIFE VIA PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER DATED DE-  
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CEMBER 28, 1973. THE PRESIDENT SIGNED THE NEW ENDANGERED

SPECIES ACT ON THAT SAME DAY. THE NEW ACT REPEALED AND REPLACED THE OLD ACT AND THEREBY VOIDED THAT PROPOSAL.

4. USG HAS BEEN PETITIONED TO RE-ESTABLISH THE PROPOSAL TO ADD THE GREEN SEA TURTLE TO THE U.S. LIST OF THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES PURSUANT TO THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 1973 (PUBLIC LAW 93-205). DECISION ON WHETHER TO PROPOSE REPEAT PROPOSE SUCH ACTION IS EXPECTED WITHIN THE NEXT 30 DAYS.

5. IF THE GREEN SEA TURTLE IS PROPOSED, A MANDATORY PERIOD OF AT LEAST 60 DAYS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT WOULD BE ALLOWED BEFORE IMPLEMENTATION OF FEDERAL RESTRICTIONS.

6. U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE REGULATIONS PROPOSING RESTRICTION OF SALE OF SMALL PET TURTLES DUE TO SALMONELLA PROBLEMS ARE NOW PENDING IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER AND MAY ACCOUNT FOR SOME OF THE CONFUSION.

7. SINCE TURTLE EGGS ARE FERTILIZED BY "PAPA" TURTLE INSIDE "MAMA" TURTLE, INFORMATION IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF YOUR 02380 SUBJECT TO QUESTION. SISCO

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** SENV, EFIS, XX, CS  
**To:** SAN JOSE  
**Type:** TE  
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